



# NEWS

Putnam County Composite Squadron  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Putnam County Civil Air Patrol Cadets Pilot Model Aircraft**

PATTERSON, New York – October 16, 2021 – Cadets from Civil Air Patrol's Putnam County Composite Squadron gathered at a small runway on DeVore Field in Patterson, NY on October 9 to learn how to fly radio-controlled model aircraft from the Westchester Radio Aero Modelers (WRAM) club.

WRAM Safety Officer Chris Kendra provided cadets with a safety and pre-flight briefing. He asked cadets to communicate effectively when in the flight area and to notify the group of takeoffs, landings, emergencies, and "man on the field." Kendra also described some of the member aircraft present which included electric and gas-powered models.

Cadets stepped up to the flight area, two at a time, with WRAM instructors Jorge Rodriguez and Bill Josiger who reviewed the pre-flight checklist with cadets and showed them how to operate the flight controls. Cadets were given a "buddy box," a set of flight controls that can be overridden by the instructor's controls. The model aircraft were placed on the paved runway, started by the instructor who accelerated it down the runway lifting the aircraft off the ground. Flight control was turned over to cadets once the aircraft attained altitude and WRAM instructors worked with cadets to maintain level flight. Cadets took turns piloting throughout the day.

Later in the day cadets had the thrill of launching and recovering model rockets they constructed as part of Civil Air Patrol's Aerospace Education Program. "Flying radio-controlled airplanes and launching model rockets with WRAM was a wonderful experience for the cadets. I was thrilled to see them so excited about aerospace education," said Cadet Major Evan Regan.

Civil Air Patrol Cadets participate in engaging aerospace educational activities like robotics and rocket building as one of the requirements to progress through the cadet program. "This was a fantastic success! I strongly believe this is the beginning of two very patriotic organizations relationship that can only motivate all involved," said Major Ralph Langham, squadron aerospace education officer and organizer of the event.

For information about the Putnam County Squadron contact Major MacDermant at (845) 216-5433, email [elenamac@aol.com](mailto:elenamac@aol.com), or visit [www.ny033.cap.gov](http://www.ny033.cap.gov).

*Established in 1941, Civil Air Patrol is the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force and as such is a member of its Total Force. In its auxiliary role, CAP operates a fleet of 560 single-engine Cessna aircraft and more than 2,100 small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) and performs about 90% of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center. Often using innovative cellphone forensics and radar analysis software, CAP was credited by the AFRCC with saving 107*



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*lives in fiscal 2020. CAP's 56,000 members also perform homeland security, disaster relief and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. As a nonprofit organization, CAP plays a leading role in aerospace education using national academic standards-based STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education. Members also serve as mentors to over 23,000 young people participating in CAP's Cadet Programs. One of the premier public service organizations in America, CAP benefits the nation with an estimated economic impact of \$209 million annually. Visit [www.CAP.NEWS](http://www.CAP.NEWS) or [www.GoCivilAirPatrol.com](http://www.GoCivilAirPatrol.com) for more information.*

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